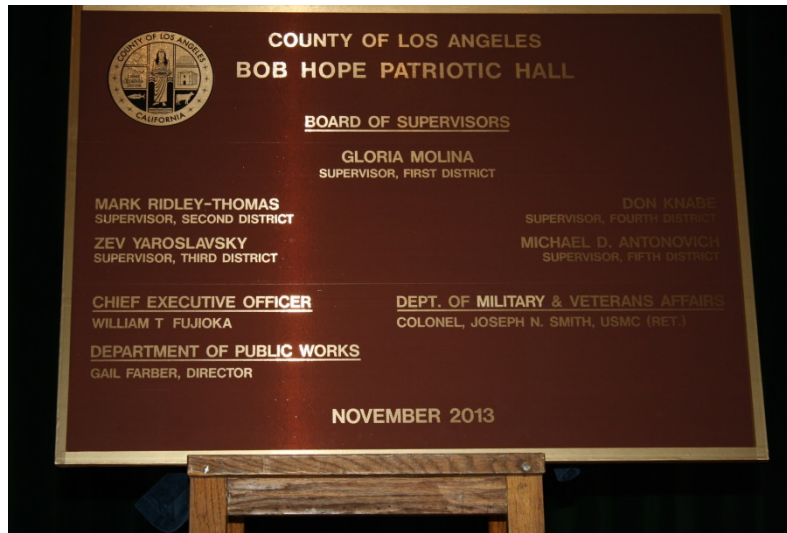


BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL REDEDICATED FOR VETERAN SERVICES **By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director**



On Friday, November 8, 2013, hundreds of local dignitaries, veterans, community leaders and civilians gathered to celebrate the rededication of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown Los Angeles.



The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Military Affairs sponsored the ceremony and luncheon that followed. The dedication follows seven years of planning and refurbishing of the iconic Roman and Italian 10-story building, which got a \$45,000,000 makeover. Part of the makeover included a mural created by famed artist Kent Twitchell, commissioned by the LA County Arts Commission.



Fritz Coleman served as Master of Ceremonies and Brigadier General Ruth Wong, Director of L.A. County Military and Veterans Affairs, welcomed the attendees. Director Wong explained that the hall will provide needed services for veterans, such as legal assistance and mental health treatment.



Comments were made by L.A. County Board Supervisors Gloria Molina (First District), Don Knabe (Fourth District) and Michael Antonovich (Fifth District). Notable speakers included L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti and Col. Joseph N. Smith, U.S. Marine Corps. (Ret.).



The sixth floor of the hall houses the LACDMH Adult System of Care VALOR (Veterans And Loved Ones Recovery) program, headed by Carl McKnight, Ph.D., Program Head. The VALOR program aims to serve the one-million veterans in L.A. County that may need mental health services, benefit establishment, employment and education assistance, peer support, collaboration with other Veteran Service Organizations, referrals for children and family support and housing. Dr. McKnight and his thirteen staff, which includes Psychiatric Social Workers, Community Workers and a Clinical Psychologist, moved into the beautiful refurbished building on October 1, 2013.



Built in 1925 and dedicated to the veterans of Los Angeles County, Patriotic Hall was originally erected as a meeting place and resource center for veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I. Designed by Allied Architects Association, the building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and has been placed on

the State's Register of Historic Resources. The building was rededicated in honor of Bob Hope, who entertained U.S. troops around the world from 1941-1990, on November 12, 2004. Read more on the history and upgrade of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall here: <http://bobhopepatriotichall.lacounty.gov/>

